

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

\_\_\_\_\_As summarized above, the phase-state changing device can be configured to change the phase state of the reference-light flux, the measurement-light flux, or both the reference-light flux and the measurement-light flux. In the latter instance, a constant phase difference between the reference-light flux and the measurement-light flux is maintained. In addition, the phase-state changing device can be configured to change the phase state in respective increments, relative to the standard, of  $0$ ,  $\pi/2$ ,  $\pi$ , and  $3\pi/2$ . Alternatively, the phase-state changing device can be configured to change the phase state in respective increments, relative to the standard, of  $0$ ,  $\pi/4$ ,  $\pi/2$ ,  $3\pi/4$ ,  $\pi$ ,  $5\pi/4$ ,  $3\pi/2$ , and  $7\pi/4$ . Further alternatively, the phase-state changing device is configured to change the phase state in respective irregular increments, relative to the standard, of from  $0$  to  $2\pi$ , and more than  $2\pi$  as a whole.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This embodiment can include a phase-modulation device situated and configured to produce a phase modulation of the measurement-light flux and/or the reference-light flux. In addition, the measurement-light flux ~~has~~ can have a frequency that is slightly different than the frequency of the reference-light flux, so as to produce heterodyne interference.